

Baltimore, Md., February 3, 1905.

The Board of Public Works of Maryland met, this day, at 11:15 a. m., in the Office of the Governor, in the Fidelity Building, Baltimore. Present: Governor Warfield; Comptroller Atkinson, and Treasurer, Vandiver. Attorney General Bryan was also present in the early part of the meeting, as the legal advisor of the Board. He advised the Board that the proceeds of the sale of the State Tobacco Warehouse property in the Burnt District can only be used for the leasing or purchase of the site, and for the re-building of tobacco warehouses whenever the Board of Public Works may decide to erect the same, but that the money can be used for the purchase of enlarging the present ware houses, Nos. 2, 3, 4. He cited as his authority Section 1, Chapter 581 and Section 2, Chapter 426 of the Acts of 1904.

At 11:45 the Board proceeded to Room 703, Fidelity Building, where they met in conference the Chief and Deputy Tobacco Inspectors and a delegation from the Leaf Tobacco Association of Baltimore City. The State Tobacco officials present were, Chief Inspector, Aquila T. Robinson, and Deputy Inspectors, John A. V. Shermantine, Phil R. Wills and Frank O. Smith. The delegation from the Leaf Tobacco Association consisted of Joshua S. Brawlings, John Gourley, J. J. Turner, Henry Ruhstrat and Charles E. Moore. Mr. Brawlings acted as spokesman for the Leaf Tobacco Association and filed a duplicate statement, copy of which appears in minutes of the preceding meeting.

During Mr. Brawling's address, Messrs. Sherlock Swann, Chairman of the Burnt District Commission, entered the room, and Mayor Timanus subsequently joined the party. Mr. Brawlings spoke of the need of increased warehouse and wharf facilities for the tobacco trade of Baltimore City. He stated that ninety per cent of the Maryland product is shipped to Europe, not more than ten per cent of the total yield being retained for domestic use. The members of the Committee which he represented consider the Dock property on which is the burnt tobacco warehouse worth at least \$250,000 and he further urged the property be not sold at any price until a suitable water front location had been secured for the erection of a new warehouse.

Mr. Brawlings claimed th t while the State is the owner of the property it really holds the same as trustee for those engaged in

the tobacco business and that their interest should be paramount in considering the questions involved in this matter.

Colonel Swann inquired of Mr. Brawlings whether the State property is worth more per square foot than other property of similar character and location and suggested that the tobacco trade could be considerably aided by the erection of a superstructure on Pier No. 4, and Mayor Timanus added that he could say with confidence that the City would be glad to afford proper accommodation for the erection of such a superstructure on that location. Mr. Brawlings said in reply that there was no question but that wharf property of equally advantageous character and location was worth the same amount per square foot, but that he and those he represented considered the State property on Pier No. 4 the most valuable of all, on account of its location and extensive water front on three sides.

Chief Inspector Robinson stated that the total receipts of tobacco at this port last year were 37,694 hogsheads of which but 6,681 went to the Locust Point Warehouse of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the balance going to the State warehouses.

Mr. Brawlings insisted that it was absolutely essential that a new warehouse with first class water front facilities should be built either on the old location or some equally suitable site, and that the question of an immediate water front was all-important.

The Inspector also insisted upon the necessity of ground floor inspection and claimed that inspection on second and upper floors would not be at all satisfactory.

Mr. Brawlings stated that his association did not wish to place any obstacles in the way of dock improvements in Baltimore City, and that they were as much interested as any other citizens of Baltimore or of Maryland in the progress and prosperity of the City, but, unless proper facilities were given the tobacco trade of the State and City, it means the death of a business of large proportions.

By questioning, it was brought out from the tobacco inspectors that they considered the question of ground floor inspection very important, especially from the stand point of expense, as handling on upper floors would cost much more; and that if it were considered necessary to decide upon a location at Locust Point it would be

satisfactory to them. Mr. Robinson urged that no final action be taken regarding the sale of the property on Pier No. 4, until a new and suitable location is secured.

After a full and exhaustive discussion, the inspectors and the committee from the Leaf Tobacco Association withdrew, and left the Board of Public Works and the members of the Burnt District Commission to a private discussion of the question. No decision was reached; and the conference was adjourned to Tuesday, February 16th, at one p. m., in the office of the Governor at the Fidelity Building, Baltimore.

On motion of the Treasurer, seconded by the Comptroller, the Board at two p. m., adjourned.

Osvald Tilghman
Secretary.